

To: "Bell, Brendan (Lautenberg)" [Brendan_Bell@lautenberg.senate.gov]
Cc: "Baldwin, Zoe (Lautenberg)" [Zoe_Baldwin@lautenberg.senate.gov]; N=Chris Sebastian/OU=R2/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]
Bcc: []
From: CN=Lisa Plevin/OU=R2/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Thur 12/6/2012 8:57:35 PM
Subject: Re: Concerns with Passaic River / Ironbound Sampling Results
Kluesner.Dave@epamail.epa.gov
<mailto:Kluesner.Dave@epamail.epa.gov>
<http://www.epa.gov/region2>
<http://blog.epa.gov/greeningtheapple/>
Carolyn_Fefferman@menendez.senate.gov
Zoe_Baldwin@lautenberg.senate.gov
Arthur.mandel@mail.house.gov
<http://www.epa.gov/sandy/response.html>
[Hurricane Sandy Response Fact Sheets page](#)
[IRONBOUND RESIDENTIAL / PASSAIC RIVER SAMPLING EVENT PDF](#)
[IRONBOUND RESIDENTIAL / PASSAIC RIVER SAMPLING EVENT Full Suite PDF](#)
<http://www.epa.gov/region2>
<http://blog.epa.gov/greeningtheapple/>

Hi Brendan. As you may know, we went to the Ironbound to do some assessments and testing as a result of a request from the Ironbound Community Corp., which provided specific addresses of residences of concern.

Re: the lead levels, it is highly unlikely that it came from the lower Passaic River Superfund site, since lead is not a contaminant of concern there. As you probably know, lead can be found at elevated levels as a legacy contaminant in urban areas. From all of its use, including in lead based paint and in leaded gasoline, it has been able to deposit in our environment and is constantly redistributed through various events/activities. As you stated, the water sampled is not used as drinking water and was in fact, pumped out of that particular basement by EPA.

We expect to have a written response to the Senator's letter shortly. Have added Chris Sebastian, our NJ Congressional Liaison to this email, in case you need additional information.

Lisa J. Plevin
Chief of Staff
US EPA Region 2
(212) 637-5000

From: "Bell, Brendan (Lautenberg)" <Brendan_Bell@lautenberg.senate.gov>
To: Lisa Plevin/R2/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: "Baldwin, Zoe (Lautenberg)" <Zoe_Baldwin@lautenberg.senate.gov>
Date: 12/05/2012 06:25 PM
Subject: Concerns with Passaic River / Ironbound Sampling Results

Hey Lisa,

We're concerned about these kind of results coming back, which is what triggered the original letter on the Superfund sites. For instance, finding lead levels at 20 times the drinking water standard (not to mention arsenic above the standards) in floodwater is concerning – even if people aren't drinking it – since it may be soaking into homes, leaving a toxic residue, or causing exposure when people have to spend time in the floodwater to assess damages or recover items.

Can you please give us an update on what other testing is being planned by Region 2 and how you plan to respond to Senator Lautenberg's request?

Thanks,
Brendan

Brendan Bell
Legislative Assistant
US Senator Frank R. Lautenberg
324 Hart Senate Office Building
(202) 224-3224

From: Kluesner.Dave@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Kluesner.Dave@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2012 06:11 PM
To: Baldwin, Zoe (Lautenberg)
Subject: Fw: Passaic River / Ironbound Sampling Results

Zoe, this bounced back for some reason.

David Kluesner - Public Affairs
U.S. EPA - Manhattan Office
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----- Forwarded by Dave Kluesner/R2/USEPA/US on 12/05/2012 06:11 PM -----

From: Dave Kluesner/R2/USEPA/US
To: Carolyn_Fefferman@menendez.senate.gov Zoe_Baldwin@lautenberg.senate.gov,
Arthur.mandel@mail.house.gov
Cc: Chris Sebastian/R2/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 12/05/2012 03:58 PM
Subject: Passaic River / Ironbound Sampling Results

Earlier today EPA posted on <http://www.epa.gov/sandy/response.html> the following narrative and links to sampling results from the Passaic River and residences in the Ironbound that were sampled at the request of the Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) following Hurricane Sandy. EPA conducted a pump out of the one basement that we found flooded and have been working closely with the resident and ICC. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Hurricane Sandy Sampling Results

The Passaic River has a long history of industrialization, which has resulted in degraded water quality, sediment contamination, loss of wetlands and abandoned or underutilized properties along the shore. The lower Passaic River is considered part of the Diamond Alkali Superfund site, which is a source of dioxin contamination to the river.

Residences and commercial buildings near the Passaic River were impacted by flood waters during

Hurricane Sandy. On November 17, 2012 EPA obtained four samples of flood water from three residences adjacent to the river, in the Ironbound section of Newark, NJ. The samples from two of the residences were collected on or about October 29, 2012 by the residents themselves and given by them to EPA; the sample from the third residence was collected by EPA personnel on November 17, 2012. On November 19, 2012 one further sample was taken from the Passaic River itself. A total of five samples, including a duplicate sample taken as a quality control, were collected for analysis.

The samples were analyzed for bacteria and 189 different chemicals, including Metals, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs), Gasoline Range Organics (GROs), Diesel Range Organics (DROs), Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH), and Dioxins/Furans. Due to insufficient sample volume, only bacterial analyses were performed on two of the three residential samples.

Levels of bacteria were high. While this type of bacteria becomes inactive over time, these findings reinforce the need for people to protect themselves when cleaning up flood waters. Fact sheets detailing precautions that should be taken when cleaning flood waters can be found at the Hurricane Sandy Response Fact Sheets page.

Additional chemicals that were tested were either not detected, or were below levels of concern, with the exception of arsenic, iron, and lead. Arsenic and iron slightly exceeded drinking water standards, while concentrations of lead were about 20 times higher than the drinking water standard. Drinking water standards are established to protect people drinking two liters of water daily for 70 years. Because people were not drinking the floodwater, and had minimal contact with it for only a limited time, EPA does not consider these levels to be cause for concern.

Concentrations of chemicals in the Passaic River were all below drinking water standards. Results of the sampling (for detections only) are available here: IRONBOUND RESIDENTIAL / PASSAIC RIVER SAMPLING EVENT [PDF 30 KB, 3 pp]

Results of the sampling (all analytes) are available here: IRONBOUND RESIDENTIAL / PASSAIC RIVER SAMPLING EVENT Full Suite [PDF 73 KB, 7 pp]

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